

# Joint Space Academic Group Charter

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Mission	<p>The mission of the Joint Space Academic Group (JSAG) is to help ensure that the National Security Space (NSS) Cadre receives high quality, relevant, and responsive graduate education that is aligned to NSS needs.</p>
Background	<p>Graduate education must support the NSS Cadre across a broad range of assignments and career fields. The scope is from research and development, through employment of space capability in a variety of operational environments, which are service unique in many cases. An interdisciplinary/systems engineering based academic thrust, as well as specialized in-depth technical knowledge will be needed to satisfy the spectrum of space cadre needs. For many years, graduate-level space education at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) has served us well educating the backbone of our space professional cadre. The growing importance of space argues for a top-down look at common standards, greater capacity, avoidance of duplication, and improved user focus. The JSAG was formed in February 2004 to answer specific tasking from the Joint Space Oversight Board (recently renamed the Space Professional Oversight Board).</p>
Administration	<p>The JSAG is established by the DoD Executive Agent for Space. The JSAG's functions in support of the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) Educational Alliance are specified in the <i>Memorandum of Understanding Between the Naval Postgraduate School and the Air Force Institute of Technology</i>, 22 April 2004. The JSAG will keep both the NPS Superintendent and AFIT Commandant informed of other efforts in response to Space Professional Oversight Board (SPOB) tasking.</p> <p>Meetings will be held quarterly and minutes provided to the SPOB, NPS Superintendent and AFIT Commandant. Additional meetings or briefings may be held upon direction of the Chair.</p> <p>This charter will be reviewed and updated (if required) yearly, within one month of assignment of each Chair.</p>
Responsibilities	<p><b>The Joint Space Academic Group will</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide the SPOB with a joint AFIT/NPS vision of graduate-level space education. Specific elements of this vision or "future state" will include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A recommended process to assign students to AFIT or NPS based upon community needs and the strengths (or focus areas) of the respective institution</li><li>○ A recommendation on the "right" percentage of the space cadre with graduate degrees, to include recommendations on the right percentages in each technical curriculum</li><li>○ Updates on the health of space related graduate programs to include a recommendation on the necessary throughput to remain viable and capacity of each institution by program</li><li>○ A recommendation on how to ensure that the graduate degree programs of the academic institutions meet the developing needs of the NSS community</li></ul></li><li>• Develop and foster standard definitions for JSAG and AFIT/NPS use where possible and understanding of divergent definitions for others to enable greater collaboration. (For example, Joint Publication 1-02 does not include a definition for the term "space science".) Many NSS organizations use the same terms with subtle yet important differences. In order to better understand what the customer wants, we need to clearly understand what they are asking for and what the degrees/curricula provide.</li></ul>

- Develop and maintain a set of common educational objectives for use by all institutions in the development of their respective curricula. Tailor the educational objectives to NSS user needs in the various space career fields, e.g.: acquisition/system engineering, operations, science and technology, etc. This will include correlating the USAF Academic Specialty Codes (ASC's) to Navy Educational Skill Requirements (ESR's).
- Review the curricula developed by each institution, to include: definition of "core curricula components", avoidance of unnecessary duplication outside of the core components, and alignment of curricula with common educational objectives.
- Provide a broad roadmap that shows the interrelationship from undergraduate education through training and graduate education to applications for space professionals to assist in clarifying the roles and relationships of the contributing institutions to NSS Cadre development.
- Provide recommendations through minutes and briefings at the scheduled SPOB meetings (expected to be twice per year, up to quarterly).

**The JSAG in support of the AFIT/NPS Educational Alliance will**

- Identify potential areas of collaboration between AFIT and NPS.
- Identify issues relating to the health of Graduate Education programs for space, to include recruitment, student base, faculty, emerging requirements, infrastructure, and funding requirements.
- Identify specific program strengths at each institution.
- Make periodic reports to the NPS Superintendent and AFIT Commandant. In accordance with the AFIT/NPS MOU, a final report is due January 2005.

**The NPS Superintendent and the AFIT Commandant** will ensure the JSAG has representative membership and holds periodic meetings to meet the requirements of the AFIT/NPS Educational Alliance.

Membership

As a minimum, board membership will include two representatives from AFIT, two representatives from NPS, and a fifth member representing the NSS user community and the Army space cadre. Other organizations may provide observers and/or advisors at JSAG meetings by invitation from the JSAG Chair, or as directed by the SPOB.

The Chair of the JSAG, who will normally serve for a period of one year, will be rotated between members from AFIT and NPS.

Peter B. Teets  
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